

[7th February 1924]

A.—Government are anxious to develop the hydro-electric resources of the Presidency, and are taking action to that end. They also propose to utilize the services of an expert to advise them as to the lines of progress.

Irrigation.

Drains in the Gōdāvari Western and Kistna Eastern deltas.

252 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any estimates are ready for the improvement of drains in the Gōdāvari Western and Kistna Eastern deltas ;

(b) if so, whether a list of them will be placed on the table ; and

(c) whether the Government are going to undertake any of these works in the coming year 1924-25 ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) One work “Excavating subsidiary drains to the Motur left side drain” in the Kistna Eastern delta, has been sanctioned and is proposed to be taken up for execution during 1924-25. There are several other works which have been either completed or in progress or under consideration.

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—“ May I ask the hon. the Law Member to place a list of all the works referred to in my question No. 252 (b) on the Table ? The hon. Member said in reply that there are several other works which have been completed.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I shall compile a list of the works which have been completed or are in progress.”

Irrigation channels in the Gōdāvari Western delta.

253 Q.—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the irrigation channels in the Gōdāvari Western delta are not being repaired as usual ;

(b) whether in consequence of the same the lands at the tail end of the channels are suffering from inadequate supply of water ; and

(c) whether the Government are going to take any action with respect to the same ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) & (c) The attention of the Member of the Legislative Council is drawn to the answer to Legislative Question No. 43 (49), December 1923.

Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU :—“ May I inform the hon. the Law Member that my experience is quite different from the answer given to question No. 253 (a) ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I realize that ” (laughter).

Breaches made by the river Vettar.

254 Q.—Mr. C. MARUTHAVANAM PILLAI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the river Vettar breaches almost every year in the limits of Manjadi to the north of Kivalore, thereby damaging the crops

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of several villages lower down on the right bank of the river for the last thirty years and more ; and whether complaints have been made by the ryots year after year, but to no purpose ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department of Public Works even prepared an estimate for closing the breaches and for the construction of a drainage sluice two years back on a complaint made by Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar and others ; and whether the estimate has been sanctioned ; if so, will the same be worked out at least in the current year ;

(c) whether the ryots have given any suit notice to Government regarding the above breaches ;

(d) whether the Department of Public Works constructed a temporary wooden sluice and closed the breach partially with the result that the whole is now washed away ;

(e) whether a big island has been formed in the middle of the river to the west of Nagore where the river discharges into the sea ; and whether the same obstructs the free flow of the river during floods and causes the water to back up, thus submerging the lands in December and damaging the standing crops ; and

(f) whether an estimate is being prepared for turning the river and at what stage it is now ?

A.—(a) No ; there was a gap for a very long time in the right bank of the Vettar in the Manjadi limits through which the fields to the right of the Vettar drained into the river. This gap was permitted on the understanding that the interested ryots would close it when floods came down the river. As this was neglected by the ryots, the gap widened during the floods of 1919. The breach was closed, leaving only a small gap for the field drainage to enter the Vettar as before.

Complaints have been made by M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal. No other complaints have been received.

(b) Government are not aware whether any estimate was prepared by the local officers ; but the Executive Engineer has reported that he has instructed the Subdivisional Officer to construct a box sluice at the site of the gap and to reform the bank.

(c) The Government have no information except a statement in a petition received from M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur K. S. Venkatarama Ayyar Avargal, in December last, that he has given a notice to the Collector.

(d) The temporary wooden sluice referred to is apparently the box sluice referred to in clause (b) above. No information has been received, but a report has already been called for.

(e) & (f) The Government have no information.

Traffic on the anicut across the Pennar at Nellore.

255 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that traffic is much inconvenienced during the greater part of the year, on the anicut across the river Pennar at Nellore ;